

State of South Carolina

State Ethics Commission

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MEGHAN L. WALKER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

March 21, 2022

The March 17, 2022, meeting was rescheduled for March 21, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chairman Childs C. Thrasher at the State Ethics Commission's Hearing Room located at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina. Vice Chairman Donald Gist, Commissioner Brian M. Barnwell and Commissioner Donald H. Jackson were in attendance. Commissioner Brandolyn T. Pinkston, Commissioner AJ Holloway and Commissioner Scott Frick also appeared via Zoom call.

Staff present: Meghan Walker, Rynanne Caldwell, Courtney Laster, Kevin Hinson, Reggie Gaymon Rachael O'Bryan and Deaven Linen were in attendance. Ami Franklin and Karen A. Wiggins joined via Zoom call.

Others present: via Zoom were Matthew N. Tyler, F. Xavier Starkes, Neal D. Truslow and Avery Wilkes. Lisle Trawick also joined via phone.

Chairman Thrasher declared a quorum present. Director Walker noted for the record that the news media was duly notified.

MINUTES

Chairman Thrasher called for an approval of the minutes. Chairman Thrasher asked for any discussion or opposition. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Barnwell, to accept the minutes. The motion carried with no opposition to approve the open and executive session minutes from the January 20, 2022, Commission meeting. The motion carried with a 7 - 0 vote.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Director Walker presented the Budget, Compliance Report, and Pending and Paid Orders for information and requested any opposition or discussion. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Walker presented the Commissioners with a slideshow review of the last five years to showcase the Commission's accomplishments and potential future endeavors.

Chairman Thrasher, Vice Chairman Gist, Commissioner Barnwell and Commissioner Jackson were recognized for their service and the end of their terms with the State Ethics Commission.

Chairman Thrasher opened the floor for nominations for an interim Chairman and interim Vice Chairman for the State Ethics Commission. Commissioner Pinkston nominated Commissioner Holloway to be the interim Chairman and seconded by Vice Chairman Gist. A motion was made to close the nominations for interim Chairman by Commissioner Jackson and seconded by Commissioner Barnwell. Commissioner Holloway was elected to be the interim Chairman. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote, with Commissioner Holloway not participating.

Chairman Thrasher opened the floor for nominations for an interim Vice Chairman. Commissioner Frick was nominated by Vice Chairman Gist and seconded by Commissioner Barnwell to become interim Vice Chairman. A motion was made to close the nominations for interim Vice Chairman by Commissioner Jackson and seconded by Vice Chairman Gist. Commissioner Frick was elected to be the interim Vice Chairman. The motion carried with a 6 – 0 vote, with Commissioner Frick not participating.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to go into Executive Session. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Gist, seconded by Commissioner Holloway. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to return from executive session at 10:00 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Holloway, seconded by Commissioner Pinkston. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

ADVISORY OPINION 2022-001

Section 8-13-320(10)(g) of the Ethics Act's confidentiality provisions were clarified by Commission staff. A motion was made by Commissioner Barnwell, seconded by Vice Chairman Gist, to adopt the opinion. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thrasher asked for further discussion or a motion to adjourn. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Pinkston, seconded by Vice Chairman Gist, to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. The motion carried with a 7 – 0 vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deaven Linen